

# Infrastructure Advisory Commission

Indianapolis currently faces more than \$5 billion in critical infrastructure needs. Indianapolis must address challenges with roads, parks, rivers and streams and drinking water. Much of Indianapolis' transportation, water and sewer systems are more than 50 years old and in need of repair, and inadequate maintenance in past years makes improvements more difficult today.

Because of the significant need, Mayor Greg Ballard created the four-member Infrastructure Advisory Commission (Commission) in February 2009 to develop an honest assessment of the challenges faced by the city due to the critical infrastructure needs by devising long-term recommendations and solutions to Indianapolis' infrastructure needs.

The Commission will act as a sounding board for the community on ideas Indianapolis residents may have about how this problem can be solved while looking at innovative ideas that are being put to practice in other places around the world. As a result, the Commission will lead the public in the discussion of alternatives that will bring the best value and opportunities to Indianapolis residents.

## The Challenge

Many of Indianapolis' current infrastructure needs result from years of inadequate maintenance. Issues the Commission will study include, but are not limited to:

### Deteriorating Streets

Indianapolis must address crumbling streets, curbs and sidewalks. In order to restore many streets, curbs and sidewalks to an acceptable condition, the city must invest more than \$1.5 million.

### Water

Indianapolis' water system is facing a total debt of \$928 million, which will result in sharp increases in citizens' monthly water bills.

### Sewer

Due to a federally mandating Consent Decree with the Environmental Protection Agency, Indianapolis must invest between \$1.4 and \$1.7 billion to upgrade the Wastewater system by 2025. Built



To address combined sewer overflows, Indianapolis must invest between \$1.4 and \$1.7 billion to upgrade the Wastewater system by 2025 to satisfy a Consent Decree entered into with the Environmental Protection Agency.



*Many of Indianapolis' streets are crumbling and in need of paving.*

over the course of two centuries, the city's Wastewater system has overflowed into rivers and streams, polluting our environment.

In addition, \$1.8 billion is needed for non mandated sanitary improvements, including the Septic Tank Elimination Program. An additional \$300 million is necessary for storm water management to address significant drainage issues.

## Parks

Significant capital is needed to return the city's parks to an acceptable condition. Necessary upgrades are needed to swimming pools, playground equipment, parking lots, roads and basketball courts to maintain safety and functionality.

## Other Initiatives

Indianapolis also requires capital for other important city initiatives such as vehicle replacement, improved bus service, investment in mass transit/light rail and abandoned homes remediation.

## Steps to Improvement

These costs and challenges impact the economic development of Marion County in a significant way, and now is not the time to be short-sighted or narrow-minded about methods to make these improvements to the city's critical infrastructure. By listening to citizen feedback and soliciting international feedback regarding these topics, the Commission will provide Mayor Ballard with real solutions the city can implement to improve infrastructure while having the smallest impact on citizens' pocketbooks.

### Comments

The Commission welcomes comments and feedback. To submit comments online, visit the mayor's Web site at [www.indy.gov/mayor](http://www.indy.gov/mayor) and click on the link to the Commission's Web site. Comments can also be submitted through the Mayor's Action Center. Call 327-4MAC to share your thoughts.

### Commission Members

Bill Blomquist, IUPUI School of Liberal Arts  
Mike Hudson, IPOWER Energy System  
Patty Martin, Eli Lilly & Co.  
Todd Stuart, Stuart's Moving and Storage

### Mayor Ballard has charged the Commission with:

- Reviewing potential long-term solutions to Indianapolis-Marion County's critical infrastructure issues.
- Providing recommendations to Mayor Ballard to improve Indianapolis-Marion County infrastructure, with a goal of preserving both a high quality of life and affordable cost of living.
- Challenging conventional wisdom.
- Soliciting feedback from citizens.
- Reviewing both national and international models and contemporary approaches for financing infrastructure improvements, and their applicability to Indianapolis.